

THE MEDINA SENTINEL

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NO. 15

ACCUSATION IGNORED BY THE GRAND JURY

MAN WHO ADMITS KILLING
PAUL JOHNSON SET FREE

Neighbors Declare Hazel Murphy Did
Not Charge Paul Johnson With
Violence When Here.

The jury before which Roma Murphy and his daughter, Hazel, were taken, charged with the killing of Paul Johnson, Litchfield farmer, in the home of the Murphys in Cleveland, returned a report, "Ignored." This was the case in which Paul Johnson, who went to Cleveland to settle charges that he owed the Murphy girl money, was killed in an altercation, Murphy claiming that Johnson tried to kill him and his daughter and that he shot in self-defense.

An increasing number of thinking citizens are against the whole jury system. Such a seeming fiasco as this last attempt to mete out justice but adds to the disgust with which some people think of the jury system as it now is. That those who knew Johnson will have raised in their minds—many discussing publicly this apparent travesty on justice—a question as to the lack of efficiency in the system goes without argument. Johnson was killed, Murphy admits the killing, his excuse seems trivial in the minds of Johnson's friends, some punishment—surely—is necessary under the circumstances, and yet a body of men claiming intelligence turn the man who did the killing loose without a trial.

The Cleveland papers did not go deeply into what caused the altercation—if there was such, and if Murphy had a real provocation. Friends of Johnson are determined that he was killed in cold blood. What seems evident from what charges have been made by Murphy and his friends is that Johnson was accused by Murphy of taking undue liberties with the person of Hazel Murphy. It is said that demands had been made on Johnson by Murphy, and that Johnson went to Cleveland to pacify the Murphys. It is known that he took a considerable sum of money with him, that he paid the sum at first demanded, and that when the body was searched the balance of what money Johnson took to Cleveland with him had disappeared. The concurrent story is that after Johnson settled the Murphy demands, exposing the total that he carried in doing so, Murphy at once "raised the limit" and demanded sufficient to take the balance of the roll. Then, when Johnson, protested, his death followed. There seems to be no witness besides Hazel—on trial with her father—to the killing, but piecing the evidence together as it is found, the above story is substantially correct.

Friends and neighbors assert that Paul Johnson was not capable of an assault on Hazel Murphy; that no such story was ever told in the neighborhood, as would have been likely had such an incident occurred; that only after the girl had gone home and been for some time under the influence of the father was such a charge made. All agree that Johnson was a gentleman, not likely to pick a quarrel, somewhat timid, did not court trouble, and that when Murphy made such a charge—if he did as the evidence seems to indicate—was a man who would rather pay something to settle rather than to lose a hard tongue against him with such a villainous charge.

Search at the home after the killing corroborated the story of Johnson's housekeeper, who said Johnson was not armed; his small revolver was found at home. That Johnson carried a considerable sum of money to Cleveland, that he did pay Murphy before the shooting, leaving a considerable balance that could not be found on his body, all are fairly well corroborated. What, then, became of this money? The body was found in the Murphy home, lying as it fell, so says Mr. Murphy.

Authentic evidence can be produced indicating that when Hazel came to the Johnson home she was far from reliable and her word could not be accepted. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson took pains to show Hazel the folly of unfairness, showed her that they were her real friends, and in the end Hazel became a very tractable girl and won the confidence of the Johnsons. She had been given opportunity to pick old iron and had used the proceeds to buy Thrift Stamps; has been given some few cash rewards and had also invested them. When Mrs. Johnson died she was sent home, but with a smile on her face and with friendship in her heart. No charge was made against Paul Johnson of any character.

But later charges were made and Johnson went to Cleveland to untangle these and to mollify the Murphys. A dispute followed and in the end Johnson was killed.

The Murphys were arrested and later examined by the grand jury. When the report was made by the jury the charges against the Murphys was marked "Ignored." No one in Medina county knows the character of the evidence presented to the grand jury, or whether the Murphys had any tangible evidence to present to the jury in their own behalf. But it is certain that Medina citizens knowing Paul Johnson will wonder at the laxness of the jury or the law that will permit a man to go free with such a weight of circumstantial evidence against him, and even the admission that the killing was done

by the man so accused, without a trial in the criminal court of the county.

An appraisal of the property of Paul Johnson was under way Tuesday, for proper return in the Medina courts.

VILLA AGAIN RAMPANT; MEXICANS THE VICTIMS

The dispatches of Monday told the story of Villa massacring 675 Mexicans in a fit of retaliation. This is intended as a lesson to Carranza. This is the same Carranza who protested against the American forces going ahead and hunting down Villa, out of selfish pride. Had Villa got the scalp of Carranza among the 675 he would have received but his just deserts. It would have been a humane act had the U. S. continued in Mexico till Villa had been slaughtered, even if it had been necessary to brush aside Mexican interference.

LEGISLATURE MEETS TO FIND SOMETHING TAXABLE

The Ohio Legislature is now in session. Financial matters are pressing heavily in many sections over the State and an effort will be made to find means of "raising the wind." In these days little time is spent in a search for an opportunity to retrench, but statesmen will sit up all night to seek out some way of adding additional burden and in a way so that an overburdened public will find it impossible to evade the added load.

"FOLDING HIS TENT AND STEALING AWAY"

WEATHER CONDITIONS HALT
N. COURT STREET WORK

Push of the Last Few Weeks Would
Have Completed Improvement
in Good Time.

The contractor on N. Court street has "folded his tent" and is planning to "silently steal away." This will leave the street as it now is.

No one who has in even a desultory manner followed the improvement on this street will be surprised at this move. This was to be expected, and but for the Sentinel work would have been stopped several weeks ago. It was simply that certain people and interests didn't like the light to shine upon them, and the Sentinel having turned the calcium rays of public attention to the dilly-dallying methods of the past, it was a new-born desire to "make a show," so to speak.

Contractor Kellogg has made conscientious effort for the past few weeks. The same effort three months earlier in the season would have completed the improvement.

The Southwestern railway has done good work since the company officials became awake to the fact that the people of Medina, while they had been patient for many months, might stretch their limbs, shake off their sloth, and "tear things" in disgust. The same good work as of the past few weeks would have made possible the completion of N. Court street "without peradventure of a doubt." Primarily, then, the present condition of the street is chargeable to the Southwestern railway; secondarily, Contractor Kellogg comes in for criticism.

The Medina public can rest assured that with the "return of the robins" there will come a return of the prod that will stir both railway and contractor. And with a new Council, and it is hoped a 1920 brand of fearlessness, N. Court street shall be completed in the shortest possible time necessary under winter conditions prevailing in the spring.

WILL OF CAPT. BATES FILED FOR PROBATE

The will of the late Capt. Martin V. Bates, of Seville, was filed for probate on Tuesday of this week.

By the terms of the document the widow will receive all the household goods, all personal property, consisting of a number of diamonds, etc., 15 shares of Ohio Brass Co. stock and 5 shares of Goodyear Rubber stock. She is also to have the use of a 150 acre farm in Guilford township for a period of one year from the death of her husband. After this period same is to be sold and the proceeds divided as follows: \$4,000 to Sam J. Wright, of Jenkins, Ky.; \$2,000 to Martin V. Bates, son of Robert Bates, of Democrat, Ky.; \$2,000 to Martin V. Bates, son of Henderson Bates, of Menafee, Ky.; \$1,000 to widow; \$1,000 to Ladies' Cemetery association of Seville; and \$2,000 to Frank E. Weatherly, of Lockland, O., a brother of Mrs. Bates. Mr. Weatherly will also receive a third \$1,000 if he will make his home in Seville where he will be near his sister.

The residue of the sale of the farm property, if there be such, is to be divided among the above named probate.

The widow is named as executrix, without bond, and the will bears the date of April 16, 1918.

CHANGE IN RESIDENCES

Mr. Clarence Cole and family are moving to Cleveland this week and Mr. Martin Davis, who purchased Mr. Cole's place, is moving into it. Mrs. Della Bailey has purchased Mr. Davis' place and is moving there. Mr. O. C. Wilcox, who purchased the place Mrs. Bailey lived in, will move next week; and Mr. Armstrong has rented Mr. Wilcox's home and will move there in the near future.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEDINA COUNTY FAIR

EIGHT NEW MEMBERS
CHOOSE ON SATURDAY

Will Commence Organization Jan. 3
and Hold Sports From Last
Year.

The annual meeting of the Medina County Ag. Society was held in this city Saturday. Chief among the business for the day was the election of members to the Board of Directors, as follows: I. F. Beachy, Guilford tp.; J. T. Mayer, Liverpool; O. F. Mantz, Spencer; H. C. Hulbert, Westfield; Fred McKee, Hinkle; J. A. Coler, Sharon; C. C. Cheeny, Leroy village; C. M. Crum, Lodi village. Mr. Crum was chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Way Knapp and will sit on the Board for two years; the others were chosen for three years.

Adjournment was taken to Jan. 3, probable time 10 a. m. At that time the new board will organize, elect and install officers. The date of the 1920 Fair will be decided on and revision of the premium list undertaken.

Annual reports will be in order at this session, and the secretary will make his financial report on the condition of things in general and of the Fair's finances in particular.

All premiums have been paid and with few exceptions all the current bills of the society.

With the newly added members of the Board of Directors it is believed that the Medina Fair organization will prove a strong business getter and move forward to a prosperous future. After the organization of the Board in the final choice of officers plans for the 1920 exhibit will at once be set on foot and the belief is expressed that with a few needed improvements, now in sight, the Medina fair should prove one of the best in the State.

JAMES H. WEAVER LEAVES WADSWORTH COMPANIES

Mr. James H. Weaver severed his connection as assistant general manager with the Ohio Match, Boxboard and Salt Companies of Wadsworth on December 1. Mr. Weaver leaves these companies after 14 years continuous service.

On Tuesday of last week he made his last rounds of the companies and on this occasion introduced Mr. A. D. Welker as his successor. Mr. Welker has been Mr. Weaver's assistant for a number of years and this is the only change contemplated at the present.

Mr. Weaver's action was voluntary, he having notified the companies in the early spring.

DRIVING FOR FUNDS; FIGHT WHITE PLAGUE

POSSIBLE TO STOP IT
BY INTELLIGENT EFFORT

Money Needed to Make Winning
Fight—Race Must Save Self
From This Great Evil

The drive for funds with which to combat tuberculosis in Ohio in particular and the U. S. in general is now on; it began in Medina Monday. As this is one of the most humane efforts ever undertaken by the human race, and as it promises wonderful results for the whole family, it behooves us all to consider well before we turn the proposition down, and before we dismiss solicitors lightly or with a light contribution.

It is true that calls for public giving have been many within the past few years, and that some of Medina's citizens have given until it has hurt; but that in no way excuses one from ignoring this great opportunity. Tuberculosis is one of the greatest evils that threatens the race. Its insidious character makes it hard to locate in the mind of the one who suffers, and in consequence makes it hard to fight. Many things are being done to combat it, many more new devices need to be tried, many who are willing to join in its eradication from self must be helped with money for they have not the means to aid themselves.

Whole tribes of healthy Indians were carried off within a few generations when once this dread malady had gained a foot-hold, the Red Men not having the means and knowledge with which to make a winning fight. In this day we have means for a fight, what is now necessary is the money with which to wage the combat. It will take several generations to fight the evil to a finish; just about as many generations to make a winning fight as a community would last if no effort was put forth to combat the evil.

The end to be obtained makes the fight worth while at this time. While it will cost thousands to win, it won't cost half as much when the great waste is counted as it will to let things go and in the end lose the battle. The cost, too, to the individual will be small if all chip in so that an intelligent and concerted battle can be fought. Give when the solicitors ask you, and give to the full extent of your means.

TWO AUTOS CRASH UPON OUR SQUARE

LIMITED HITS A SECOND;
DRIVER FLIES MIDAIR

Jacob Smith, Blacksmith, of Beebe-
town, has Auto Smashed When He
Runs Southwestern Car Down

There were two auto accidents within a few hours of each other last week Wednesday, one on the Square near the Court House an hour after the Sentinel went to press and a second a few hours earlier near the pumping station at Brunswick. The Sentinel muse was quite seriously disturbed by these events happening so closely together and so near to Medina. He warbles thusly:

(Spasm one)
The auto is a swift machine,
It runs with lightning speed;
It almost flies so quick it moves
Down road or 'cross the mead.

But there are limits to its powers,
Its strength is not supreme;
To run head-on against a train,
Seek to untrack by might and main,
Is but an idle dream.

The man who drives the light machine
May have his little fun;
But hurt he'll get you sure can bet,
Have progress checked, his auto
wrecked,
While yet the car completes its run.

(Spasm two)
For men to rush head-on in twos,
And try to block the road they use,
Is but a foolish waste.

Some one must have the right of way,
A second man cannot say "nay";
It is but folly to declare,
You "saw it first" and "if he dare,"
You'll sweep him from the place.

The man who's going east must give
Due heed to one who's running
north;
To try and beat each other past,
The corner by just driving fast,
Won't get you anywhere.

Number two machine will likely climb
The tail of number one;
The head of one will be stove in,
The second may be badly wrecked;
No good can come of such a clash,
Both pick up trouble in the dash,
And danger lurks 'round all who
ride.

Best take your time and look about,
"I'll save one gloom and money;
"It makes you laugh to see a friend,"
"Slide 'cross the road upon his end,"
Until the court his judgment renders,
Says you must pay for damaged fenders
When you'll not, "He, he" "Ha, ha!"
"Ho, ho!"
For you'll fail to see where its
funny.

(Sequelae)

There are many more days yet to
come,
When you die there'll be work yet
undone;
Remember there are others in the
world beside you,
Do your duty today, of the morrow
don't stew,
Look! Listen! Take heed! drive
with care.

The facts were on this wise:

JACOB SMITH IS HIT BY CLEVELAND LIMITED

Jacob Smith, Beebetown blacksmith was hit by the Southwestern limited going north, due out of Medina at 8 a. m., at the crossing at the pumping station Wednesday morning. Machinery standing near the tracks shut off his view of the crossing, and his car was struck and demolished while he was thrown a considerable distance asfield. Parts of the auto were carried some distance up the track.

Smith was quite severely hurt. A physician on the car ordered him carried home and reported no bones as broken. The family physician was called to attend him—Dr. Appleby—and he found Smith suffering from severe concussion and bruises. The crossing has been under inspection from State examiners several times following similar accidents but for some reason no gate has been ordered erected. The view here is greatly obstructed to the north, but towards the south there is a fair view except when some obstruction is left standing on the switch or by the tracks.

AUTOS SMASH HEAD-ON AT COURT HOUSE CORNER

The Court House corner of the Square was the scene of an auto accident Wednesday at 3:30 p. m. At that hour Edgar Edward Keller, of Wadsworth, was driving east through the Square while C. P. Creager, of Chippewa Lake, was driving north. Just as the center of E. Liberty street was reached the car of Creager struck the rear fender of Keller's car, wrecking the fender and turning the car around and driving it across the west sidewalk and on the grass plot by the side of the Princess theater.

There was little damage done to Keller's car aside from the broken fender, but Creager's front fender was wrecked and the frame work over the engine broken, the axle twisted and cuts made in the woodwork of the right wheel.

Keller blamed Creager and said he had the right of way. While Creager's car was more seriously damaged his

auto was the one that hit the other head-on. Keller was on his way home to Wadsworth and Creager was going home from a trip to Cleveland. Creager's car was considerably damaged; Keller's showed little sign of a collision other than the twisted fender.

MESSRS. GIBBS REBUILD SOUTH COURT ST. GARAGE

Several weeks ago the Sentinel chronicled the fact that Messrs. Gibbs, of Brunswick, had purchased the old garage building at the corner of S. Court street and Smith road, taken possession as landlords, and were planning to rebuild the structure or erect additions that would amount to the same thing.

This story was denied by those who made claims of being interested in the deal. But Monday of this week men began to excavate at the northwest corner of the lot, and the promise is now made that a large addition will be built and that the old part of the structure will be greatly improved and many conveniences installed. The garage part will have its entrance on E. Smith road while a salesroom for the Oldsmobile and Oakland autos, will occupy part of the building with a new entrance on S. Court street.

Edward C. Gibbs is in charge of the work and says as soon as the building is completed he and his father expect to locate here. There will be two entrances to the building, one on Smith road and another on S. Court street. Two cement fronts are to be built and the remodeled building given an imposing appearance. This corner is to be made a busy mart in Medina.

BRUNSWICK MAN'S SCALES WEIGH SHORT; FINED

Harley Kellar, of Brunswick, was arrested on Tuesday of this week on a warrant sworn to by the prosecuting attorney and charged with having in his possession a scale which registered short weight. His hearing was had before Justice of the Peace Ainsworth on Wednesday morning, when Kellar pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$25 and costs.

According to reports of the affair gathered from various county officials Kellar was caught red-handed last summer with a scale which had a leaden weight attached to the beam in such a manner that it weighed several pounds short. Kellar had been engaged in buying livestock of various kinds and several who were short-weighted brought the matter to the attention of the county sealer of weights and measures. He went to Brunswick and removed the slug. Kellar denied that it had been his intention to defraud and claimed that the slug was necessary to make the scale weigh accurately. This was not the case, however, as the dealer of weights and measures very properly confiscated the pellet.

Very likely nothing would have come of the matter had not a number of persons who felt they had been short-weighted by Kellar interested themselves in the matter which culminated in the fining of Kellar as stated above.

WM. CORNISH LOSES SUIT IN COMMON PLEAS COURT

Court was in session Friday when the case of Wm. Cornish vs. Mary Newcomer, administrator of the estate of Elmer Whistler, was tried before a jury.

According to the petition filed by Cornish he had cared for Elmer Whistler, deceased, formerly of Brunswick, doing his washing, cooking, etc., and filed a claim for \$158 with the administrator of the Whistler estate, Mary Newcomer. The petition further charged that the administrator will neither disallow or allow the claims. An amended petition, however, stated that the administrator would not allow the claim, hence the suit.

The twelve men who listened to the evidence as submitted last Friday did not take long in reaching a verdict for the defendant, and against defendant.

SHERIFF'S RAID BRINGS NO EVIDENCE OF STILL

Sheriff Bigelow and Deputy Sheriff Hange went to Litchfield on Monday of this week following a tip they received from authorities in Lorain county that certain foreigners were operating one or more whisky stills.

The tip followed the apprehension of two Lorain county men who imbibed too much of the fluid while on a hunting trip, and who claimed that they obtained it in Litchfield.

A search of the premises under suspicion, however, failed to reveal any trace of liquor or of a still being operated, and local officials are now inclined to doubt the story of the hunters as to where they obtained their drink with the kick.

FORMER MEDINA LADY DIES

Mrs. Maria Brainard, wife of the late L. J. Brainard, died on Saturday, Nov. 29, at the home of her son, John Parker, in Mallet Creek, following a short but severe attack of lobar pneumonia.

Previous to the death of her husband deceased resided on South Court street and is well known by Medina residents.

Funeral services were held from the son's home at Mallet Creek on Monday of this week, Rev. Charles Searles officiating. Burial was made in Spring Grove cemetery.

—Next Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 5 the ladies of the Church of Christ will meet at the home of Mrs. F. C. Pfeiffer, 519 W. Smith road.

FOR SALE—White Wyandotte cockerels. J. M. Shive, phone 1279. 15c

MYSTERY SURROUNDS SHOOTING OF SHEEP

E. C. BLAKESLEE HAS
AN EVEN DOZEN INJURED

Sheriff Finds No Trace of Miscreants
Who Evidently Harbor a
Grudge.

Sheriff Bigelow was summoned to the E. C. Blakeslee farm on Weymouth road last Friday morning to unravel a mystery which up to the present time has admitted of no solution—the mystery being the shooting of an even dozen of Blakeslee's lambs. All of the shots took effect between the lamb's knees and their front shoulders, being in almost the same identical spot on each animal.

According to Blakeslee it has been his habit to feed his lambs and sheep every morning. When the animals were fed Thursday morning everything was lovely. On Friday morning 12 of the number failed to come up from the back of the field. Search revealed them way back in the lot, each suffering from a bullet wound. A veterinary was summoned and closer inspection brought out that the wound on each animal was in nearly the same place—between the front knee and shoulder, which lead some to advance the theory that the marksman, whoever he was, was trying to reach the animals' hearts. No bullets were found, but authorities believe the injury was caused by 22-calibre bullets.

The sheriff and deputy made a careful search of the pasture and surrounding fields, but were unable to locate the slightest clue, not even an empty shell being found.

Blakeslee knows of no one who would be guilty of such a dastardly crime and attaches not the slightest suspicion to anyone. All the lambs will probably recover.

MAKE TRIP TO FLORIDA IN SEVEN AND HALF DAYS

Ernest H. Hanshue and Paul Flickinger left Medina ten days ago for a trip to Florida by auto. They went via Washington and used the Lincoln Highway for many miles. Young Hanshue is the son of S. C. Hanshue, of the N. Court street garage.

It took 7½ days to make the trip from Medina to Jacksonville, Fla. They traveled 2140 miles, consumed 72 gallons of gasoline and 6 gallons of lubricant. They drove a model 90 Overland car, and when they left Medina were driving one old tire; they changed tires three times; had no auto troubles of any kind.

Letters from the young men show that they are having the time of their lives and that they are highly pleased with the trip. They expect to spend the winter in Florida and after a short time about Jacksonville settle down for the winter at Lakeland, Fla. Naturally, as the young men made the trip for a good time their Medina friends and relatives are greatly pleased that they are enjoying themselves so well.

HAS FACE BADLY CUT IN LOADING ACCIDENT

Howard Ryan was severely injured Monday morning while aiding Robert Harding to load a car of baled hay at the B. & O. Ry. yards on W. Liberty street. His lip and left cheek were badly cut, Ryan was knocked unconscious and at the time it was feared he was seriously hurt. He was rushed to the office of Dr. Robinson, but when he arrived there had recovered consciousness.

Harding and Ryan were loading a car of baled hay. Harding had pulled the load past the door of the car and to move the wagon back it became necessary to hitch to the rear of the wagon. Ryan was given the tongue to steer the load. Instead of holding the tongue in his hands he placed it under his arm. When the wheel stuck in a rut the tongue threw Ryan 15 or 20 feet, and when he landed he was knocked senseless.

Dr. Robinson dressed his wounds and the patient is recovering nicely.

MEDINA ODD FELLOWS TO KEEP OPEN HOUSE

A Home-Coming of Odd Fellows is planned by the Medina lodge for Monday evening, Dec. 15. At that time the doors will be thrown open to members and friends, and an especial invitation will be given to the local Rebecas, who are to be guests of honor.

At first it was planned to make a strictly local affair, but after making part of the arrangements for the event it was decided to invite all Odd Fellows of Medina county.

H. B. Chaffin, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge for Ohio, will be present and make an address fitted to the occasion. Friends of the order may be invited by members. The Medina lodge will meet in the early evening for ritual work after which the doors will be opened to friends regardless of membership.

OLD RESIDENT SUFFERS FROM PARALYTIC STROKES

William Walker, an elderly gentleman living north of Medina, is very ill at this writing. Several weeks ago he had a severe paralytic stroke, from which he had partly recovered. Saturday, however, he began to have other light strokes and at this time—Thursday—he is in a very serious condition and fears are entertained for the near future.